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NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1961

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second Annual Report on the health of Norham and Islandshires Rural District for the year 1961.

Perusal of the general statistics shows that there was a further small drop in the population of the district.

The birth rate in 1961 was 12.21 per 1,000 of the population, which was fractionally smaller than the previous year and is considerably lower than the national average which is 17.4 per 1,000 of the population.

It is pleasing to note that for the second successive year there was no infant death in the district. Although the total number of births is comparatively small, this is, nevertheless, evidence of a high standard of maternal and infant care.

The death rate for the year was 9.01 per 1,000 of the population and is remarkably similar to the previous year. The death rate for the district is below that of the national average. Half the deaths were due to diseases of the cardio-vascular system, and one death in six was due to coronary thrombosis. As in all areas, coronary thrombosis is an increasingly common cause of death, and in general, is responsible for more deaths than all varieties of malignant disease.

There were few notifications of infectious disease during the year. In fact, 12 cases of measles occurred; this is very similar to the previous year. Two cases of whooping cough occurred in 1961, and there were no instances of dysentery or food poisoning.

Regrettably, there was an increase in the notifications of tuberculosis. In 1960, two cases occurred, and in 1961, there were three notifications; evidence that this former scourge, although greatly diminished from previous years, is by no means eradicated.

Protective vaccination against smallpox, and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis were given during the year. The level of protection, however, is not as high as it should be.

It is a source of some concern that less than half the infants under one have been vaccinated against smallpox. The level is higher against the other infectious diseases, in fact about 70%. There is little reason why it should not approach 100%.

The Public Health Inspector in his report again mentions the need for sewage disposal works at East Ord, Norham and Horncliffe. The time is approaching when increased stringency of the River Board and greater demands by householders for modern toilet and washing facilities will make the provision of satisfactory methods of sewage disposal imperative in these areas.

1961 saw the first full year of the operation of the 1960 Caravan Act. The two sites in the Rural District gave rise to no problems, being sites of exemplary standards. The Public Health Inspector comments upon the unlawful parking of caravans on Holy Island. It is perhaps a source of regret that development of a camping site on the island was not possible. Caravanning is an increasingly popular pastime, and the provision of a well ordered site on Holy Island would prevent infringements of the Act by individual caravanners.

It is gratifying to note the steady numbers of discretionary and standard grants applied for during the year. This excellent method of rendering fit otherwise unsuitable dwellings, could with benefit be still further encouraged.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation of the help I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council, from the Clerk of the Council, the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, and the office staff during the year.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

John McCormack

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 47,011 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,354 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 7.

The rateable value was £32,523 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £128.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,100 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	18	25	43
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Totals	20	26	46

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	11.21
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	12.21
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.52

Still Births			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-
Total live and still births	46

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	-

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate	
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	-

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	-

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
	20	22	42

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	10.24
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	9.01
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	-
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes	-
Deaths from Cancer	6

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	3
" " Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	3	4	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	3	4	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease	4	7	11
Other Circulatory Disease	1	1	2
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Totals	20	22	42

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria	-
Measles	12
Pneumonia	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	-
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following table gives details of persons having received poliomyelitis vaccination from the commencement of the scheme in 1956 to 31st December, 1961.

North No. 1 and 2 Areas	
Age Group	Number of persons having received two injections
1 - 15	14,694
15 - 25	4,906
25 - 40	2,520
Over 40	200
Total ..	22,320

19,113 persons received third injections and 6,388 children aged between 5 and 12 years received fourth injections.

IMMUNISATION

	Primary Immunisation								Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	13	1	20
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	31	6	-	1	-	1	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Totals	32	6	-	1	-	2	-	41	-	-	-	-	6	17	1	24

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

North No. 1 Area

	Number Vaccinated During Period						Number Revaccinated					
District	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Berwick M.B.	90	9	7	3	7	116	-	3	6	9	11	29
Belford R.D.	61	5	2	-	3	71	-	-	-	1	11	12
Glendale R.D.	86	-	2	6	2	96	-	-	-	1	7	8
Norham R.D.	17	4	-	-	1	22	-	-	-	-	5	5
Totals	254	18	11	9	13	305	-	3	6	11	34	54

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1961.

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year the output of water from the District Council sources was maintained despite ever increasing consumption. Of the three water schemes in hand (a) Cornhill-Harperidge area from the Glendale Rural District, (b) extension of the Ord scheme to Loanend and Horncliffe areas and (c) extension of the Fenwick scheme to supply the Haggerston district; the Cornhill-Harperidge scheme was satisfactorily completed. From next year, 1962, the District Council water undertakings will be transferred to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and it is expected that the two further schemes will be put in hand, namely the Ord-Longridge-Loanend extension and the Fenwick-Beal-Haggerston extension, which upon completion, would guarantee the whole of the District Council area being well served.

SEWERAGE

The Holy Island Sewerage Scheme was completed during the year and quickly became fully operational. Numerous small teething troubles in connection with the automatic electrical pumps impaired operations at the onset but were slowly eliminated, and, all in all, the scheme was entirely satisfactory throughout the year.

Thus, within the District Council area, the villages of Holy Island and Cornhill enjoy modern sewerage and/or sewage disposal works but similar or equivalent plants are needed for the villages of East Ord, Norham and Horncliffe, and it is anticipated that these three schemes will be prepared and individually constructed in the near future.

PLANS

There were 56 plans deposited during the year together with the necessary applications under the Town and Country Planning Acts and Local Byelaws. Of these applications 48 were approved and 8 refused.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Infestations during the year were quite prevalent to a minor degree and in three cases very severe. These were speedily and efficiently cleared by the Operator, the refuse collection driver who is employed part-time on Rodent Control, a very satisfactory arrangement as it has proved over the past three years. The sewers throughout each village in the District Council area were test baited, minor infestation discovered in a few cases, which were subsequently cleared by attentive baiting.

The three District Council operated refuse tips revealed some major infestations during the year but were quickly abated by the Operator.

	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3	(5) Agricultural
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	7	1,520	251	1,778	132
Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	5	3	8	-
(b) Survey	7	900	101	1,008	39
Number of properties inspected found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats Major	3	20	1	24	7
Minor	1	89	1	91	2
(b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	1	1	-
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	4	109	3	116	9

WATER SAMPLES

Collected for Analysis

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Chemical	2	2	-
Bacteriological	15	13	2

HOUSING

During the year 7 new houses were built, 6 by the District Council and 1 privately.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1961

New Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	6	-	6
(b) By any other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By Private Persons	-	1	1

Total number of inhabited houses in the District	1,354
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	274

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

(a) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	-
(b) Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	-
(c) Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	10
(d) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	9

CARAVANS

Both the modern Caravan Sites at Haggerston and East Ord are increasing in popularity. Both are ideally situated and admirably administered.

Unfortunately there has been some siting of caravans and tents on Holy Island, for short periods, despite the prohibition imposed by the County Planning Department of the Northumberland County Council. This could lead to a serious problem during future summer seasons, unless some prompt action be taken one way or another by either (a) complete enforcement of the ban on Camping and Caravan Sites on Holy Island as per the County Planning Department's ruling, or (b) the establishing of one or perhaps two licensed Caravan and Camping Sites on the Island brought up to the standards outlined in the "Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960". In the light of past experience of this problem on Holy Island, it is felt that perhaps the latter suggested action would be the most satisfactory solution to a problem which could in the future, outreach itself in an alarming manner.

FACTORIES ACT. 1937

Number of factories throughout the area	23
Number of Mechanical Factories	22
Number of Non-Mechanical Factories	1
Inspections carried out	18
Contraventions found	1
Informal Notices served	1

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE - HOLY ISLAND

Each year the convenience is opened at Easter and closed at the beginning of October, approximately for six months. Again it has proved a boon to summer visitors, especially those arriving for short stays of a few hours. The attendant has not spared himself in his efforts to keep the convenience in an admirable state of cleanliness.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Sixty visits were made during the year to the private licensed slaughterhouse at Norham.

Animals slaughtered:-	Steers	240
	Heifers	-
	Sheep and Lambs	124
	Pigs	-

Under the new Slaughterhouse Act, 1958, the necessary works to bring the Norham slaughterhouse to the standard laid down in the Act were carried out during the year, namely:-

(a) Provision of drinking troughs in lairage

(b) Replacement of wood doors, partitions, feeding racks in lairage with tubular steel

(c) Provision of water closet and wash-hand basin with hot and cold water

(d) Provision of a stunning pen

(e) Provision of a place separate from slaughterhall for opening of stomachs and intestines and disposal of contents

(f) Provision of galvanised bin for condemned meat

(g) Flyproofing of windows which open for ventilation

(h) Provision of clothing accommodation

(i) Provision of sterilizer

This slaughterhouse, butcher's shop and food preparation rooms are most excellently conducted and maintained.

At various times throughout the year, visits were made to all food shops, hotels and catering establishments and generally a high standard of cleanliness was observed.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Canned goods	37 tins
Bacon	11 lbs.
Ham	30 lbs.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, was:-

(a)	For the sale of ice-cream	11
(b)	For the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled or preserved foods	3
	Number of inspections to registered premises	35

REFUSE COLLECTION

The service maintained by two workmen and one 5 ton Bedford Refuse Collection Vehicle comprises generally to a fortnightly collection of all premises within the District, and disposal to tips at Scremerston and Crammond Hill. No serious complaints have been received during the year, and the service though meagre, was satisfactory.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS - HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT. 1958

Since the inception of the scheme of grant assistance, 246 houses have been improved. It is gratifying to see owners coming forward to take advantage of it, and in the future, with gradual improvement to water and sewerage services, more are expected.

A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS	Number of Houses
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during the year	15
2. Applications rejected	-
3. Applications approved	15
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£368
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme	238

B. STANDARD GRANTS	During the Year	Total to date
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	5	8
2. Number of houses so provided with:-		
(a) Bath or shower	5	8
(b) Wash-hand basin	5	8
(c) Hot water supply	5	8
(d) Water closet	5	8
(e) Food store	5	8

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Complaints and nuisances	5
Disinfection and disinfestation	5
Factories	18
Food premises - Food and Drugs Act, 1955	35
Houses - Insanitary	47
Ice-cream premises	11
Rodent infested premises	34
Slaughterhouse meat inspection	46
Caravan Sites	10
Water supplies	70
Notifiable Diseases	3
Improvement Grants	51
Council House Repairs	126
Building Byelaws	50
Storage of Petroleum	15
Planning - Town and Country Planning Act	30
TOTAL VISITS - INSPECTIONS MADE	556

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

A.N. SENIOR

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

52, Ravensdowne,
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
25. 10. 62.